

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 1231231
Text Phone: 0161 6188524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566 937
Direct F 01695 729320
Direct email:
jsimmons@cfbt.com



17 December 2012

Mrs J Davis
Headteacher
Ash Grove Junior and Infant School
Ash Grove
South Elmsall
Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF9 2TF

Dear Mrs Davis

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Ash Grove Junior and Infant School

Following my visit to your school on 14 December 2012, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in October 2012. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher and other senior leaders, the Governing Body, and a telephone discussion was held with a representative of the local authority. The school improvement and action plans were evaluated. A tour of the school was made, visiting all classrooms briefly.

Context

There have been no significant changes to the context of the school since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

Senior leaders and governors have begun taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. Senior leaders and the headteacher particularly are upbeat and present a confident and clear-sighted picture of the school's response to the inspection outcomes. There is unequivocally a determination to improve, which is expressed sensibly, echoed by the governing body, and reflected in the school's action plans. The school has focused squarely on the areas for improvement and the action taken so far, though at an early stage of implementation, offers the prospect of the required improvement and particularly of more-effective leadership and management throughout the school. Data is being used effectively to prompt an increase in the pace of improvement activity, including through the school's performance management process. Governors show a good level of awareness of the key priorities resulting from the inspection and have used the inspection as an opportunity to increase their engagement with the work of the school, sharpening the focus of their activities. The school's post-inspection action plan has several good features and sets out a clear, ambitious timescale for getting the school to be good. Activities for monitoring progress with the plan have been identified well, but a strategy for evaluating progress is not evident in the plan.

Following the visit to the school, HMI recommended that further action is taken to clarify the process by which the school will evaluate its progress. Ofsted will continue to monitor the school until its next section 5 inspection. It is recommended that HMI visits the school again to help the school evaluate its progress with planned developments in leadership and management.

External support

The school is amenable to external support and has listed within its action plan key components of the support being used currently. It has established a good level of engagement with an associate adviser working for the local authority. There needs to be a clearer sense, however, of how the different components of support relate to each other and form a coherent programme.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Wakefield and as below.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Appropriate authority - Chair of the Governing Body/Interim Executive Board
- Local authority
- the academy chain where relevant
- Diocese - for voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools
- The Education Funding Agency (EFA) if the school has a sixth form
- The person or body responsible for appointing foundation governors if the school has a foundation
- The lead inspector.